



HANSE-PARLAMENT

Hanse-Parlament e.V.
Rissener Landstraße 193
D-22559 Hamburg

HANSE NEWS

Tel.: +49 40 8224 470
Fax: +49 40 8224 4722
info@hanse-parlament.de

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DATES

22/23 May 2007 Seminar in Kaliningrad

The concept for business start-up seminars was developed in the Tacis Project. A first practical test will take place on 22/23.05.07 under the direction of the Kaliningrad Chamber of Crafts. An electronic management and controlling system specifically for small and medium-sized companies has also been developed as part of this project. Once the practical test has been concluded, both the seminar concept and the electronic management system will be made available to all partners for their own use and for transfer to member companies.

Hanseatic Conference in Hamburg from 14 – 16 June 2007

The invitations to the 4th Hanseatic Conference have been sent out, and an interesting programme is in store for you. Since space restrictions will place a limit on the number of participants, we recommend you register for the event without delay. A further meeting of Working Group I of our BSME Project will take place in conjunction with the conference on 13 June 2007. A separate invitation will be sent out for this.

Pilgrimage to Częstochowa on 24 June 2007

This year's Polish craft trades pilgrimage is being organised by the Olsztyn Chamber of Crafts and Trades and will take place on 24 June 2007. The Olsztyn Chamber of Crafts and Trades will be happy to provide anyone interested with further information.

UPDATE AND IMPORTANT NEWS ON THE BSME PROJECT

Educational policy concept for the Baltic Region

The "Education" Working Groups have drawn up the "Learning from and with one another concept", containing a representation of the educational systems in the countries of the Baltic Region and theses relating to the further development of educational policy. This has been sent to all partners. The far-reaching theses developed within the concept have set off a lively debate. At its meeting held in Trondheim on 26 April, the Steering Group resolved to treat this concept as a discussion paper, enter into extensive dialogue with relevant regional and national stakeholders via the partners, make use of it within ongoing Hanseatic Parliament work and update it as necessary.

Meetings of the Working Groups

The Steering Group and the Working Groups for all three work packages within our BSME Project have been involved in an extensive series of meetings recently, these having taken place

- on 22/23 February in Bydgoszcz
- on 26/27 March in Cottbus
- on 26/27 April in Trondheim.

All meetings were excellently organised by the respective partners and were delighted to report a particularly high level of participation. Interim conclusions show that we have realised all the tasks of our project to a good level as well as implementing a whole series of additional measures. It will be possible to accomplish the tasks still remaining to be completed by the end of the project on 31 December 2007. The groups have also undertaken extensive preparations for new projects, forward-looking concepts having been drawn up for four comprehensive projects.



Meeting of the working group IV „Export“ on 22.02.2007 in Bydgoszcz



Tacis Workshop in Minsk

Workshops with our partners from Russia and Belarus also took place parallel to the Working Groups of the BSME Project. A special Tacis Workshop held in Minsk on 22/23 January embraced the specific purpose of initiating bilateral patronage links with chambers from EU countries. We are delighted to report that the level of interest on the part of the EU chambers in extensive cooperation with the chambers in St. Petersburg, the Leningrad Region, Kaliningrad and Minsk is high. The chambers from Cottbus, Gdańsk, Lublin, Szczecin, Vilnius, Warsaw City and Warsaw Region are also involved.

Seminar for management staff from the construction sector in Belarus

We conducted a working seminar with more than 20 entrepreneurs and management staff from the construction sector in Belarus in Hamburg from 12 to 17 March, the occasion also being used for the establishment of specific contacts with skilled workers from the German construction industry. The five-day intensive seminar met with such enthusiastic approbation that all sides expressed an unreserved desire that the matter should be pursued further.

"Amber" product development

A seminar on the development of high-quality children's jewellery made of amber took place in Gdynia from 17 to 22 March featuring strong representation from both Poland and Germany. The success of the event took us by surprise. A series of specific products were developed, and these will now go into production and be presented at the Amber Trade Fair to be held in Gdansk in September.

Advanced export seminar

Having developed and piloted the concept of an export seminar for beginners in 2006, the concept of export seminars for companies already experienced in exports has now been developed as part of Work Package III. Piloting took place at an export seminar held in Cottbus from 26 to 28 March. Our expectations were significantly exceeded. Twice as many entrepreneurs as planned from Germany and Poland took part. The participants judged all areas to be either "very good" or "good". Thanks to the particular commitment displayed by the Cottbus Chamber of Crafts, the events in Cottbus met with a wide-ranging and extremely positive media reaction. The concepts for both export seminars

complete with all documentation have been made available free of charge to all partners.

"Praline" product development

The "best confectioner in Europe", Adolf Andersen from Hamburg, expressed his willingness to conduct a workshop on the manufacture of high-quality pralines in Słupsk on 19 and 20 April, the event being organised by the Słupsk Chamber of Crafts and Trades. The seminar met with such a level of success that a continuation is planned for August at the request of the Polish confectioners. The Słupsk Chamber of Crafts and Trades has expressed a wish to assume the function of acting as an innovation centre for the skilled confectionary trade in future.



BALTIC SEA ACADEMY – STRONG INNOVATION

Cooperation agreement concluded

The Hanseatic Parliament has concluded a cooperation agreement with the following universities/institutes of higher education: Hamburg University of Cooperative Education, Hamburg Institute of International Economics, Institute of Higher Education 21 in Buxtehude, Lund University, Tampere University of Technology in Pori, Technical University of Gdańsk, Vilnius Business College, Vilnius Gedeminas Technical University. The aim is for this cooperation to include implementing joint Bachelor courses of study and conducting knowledge transfer and research and development work for craft trades and the SME sector in the Baltic Region.

Fostering innovation

Within the scope of the Baltic Academy and working in conjunction with the eight cooperation partners, the Hanseatic Parliament has developed a comprehensive project applicati-



on for the promotion of innovation in craft trades and SME's in the Baltic Region, this having been submitted in Brussels in April 2007 as part of the 7th EU Framework Research Programme (FP7). A decision is expected in November 2007

BALTIC EDUCATION – RECOGNITION OF EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Recognition system for the Baltic Region

The members of the Hanseatic Parliament have commissioned the Secretariat with the development of a system for the mutual recognition of vocational qualifications in the Baltic region which exhibits the lowest possible level of bureaucracy. Work in this direction is proving extremely difficult and will now be continued on a joint basis, working in conjunction with public authorities as part of a project. This project got off to a promising start with a launch workshop held on 5 and 6 March. The initial aim is to take one occupation as an example and develop a system for four countries in the Baltic Region. Results will be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held in Vilnius in November. The subsequent intention is to transfer the system which has been developed to all occupations and all countries within the Baltic Region. Further information on the project will be available shortly on the www.baltic-education.eu website, which is still under construction.

Baltic Sea Region (BSR) – Qualification Framework

An important pre-condition for international recognition of educational qualifications is the creation of comparable qualifications frameworks which align educational qualifications at various levels. The EU has created a meta-level in the form of the European Qualifications Framework, currently at the consultation stage. The aim is to use this as a basis for the development of respective national QF's for the individual member states by 2010. A BSR-QF is being developed for the work of the Hanseatic Parliament. The intention is for the BSR-QF to make a contribution to the debate surrounding the ongoing work of the EU and to constitute the foundation for the development of a recognition system for vocational qualifications based on credit points transferable between the countries

rather than in any way acting as a replacement for the national QF's. An initial draft for a BSR-QF has now been drawn up as part of the Baltic Education Project, and this is presented for debate on the last page of this newsletter.

We would be delighted to hear any contributions to the debate, ideas, information or proposals you may have. Please contact us on jhogeforster@hanse-parlament.de.

INFORMATION

European Conference for Craft Trades and Small Companies

This conference took place in Stuttgart on 16 and 17 April 2007. The Hanseatic Parliament was represented by its Vice-President Dr. Vytas Navickas. The closing declaration also emphasised the particular significance of the higher level of transparency and mutual recognition of skills qualifications in vocational education and training.

Baltic Sea Round

The Baltic Sea Forum is planning a 4,000 km relay race around the Baltic featuring a wide range of event at individual stop-off points. The start will be in Lübeck on 9 May 2008. The Hanseatic Parliament has expressed its willingness to support the event and submitted proposals to this effect. We will keep you up to date on progress.

Work experience programme in Estonia

Institutions from Hamburg and Tallinn are staging a work experience programme. People who have completed vocational education and training are being afforded the opportunity of completing a practical placement in Tallinn for a period of 3 – 6 months. All costs will be met from the project funds of the two provider institutions. For further information, please contact silver.kikerpill@hrfactory.info or kaethlin.hekman@hrfactory.info.

AND FINALLY

Image-Film

As part of our communications strategy, an information film of approximately 8 minutes' duration has been made for the Hanseatic Parliament. All partners will receive this film in the coming weeks.



HANSE-PARLAMENT

Level	Education Degree	Framework EHEA*
0	Basic Education	-
1	No Vocational Graduation (Graduation/Training after/for 1 year, and work and apprenticeship preparation phase)	First cycle VET** area
2	Lower Vocational Graduation (2 - 5 years, certificate of apprenticeship and no/limited professional / or experiences)	Second cycle VET area
3	Middle Vocational Graduation (long professional experience as skill worker; comprehensive further education; young master)	Third cycle VET area
4	Upper Vocational Graduation (master craftsman with long profession experiences as master; „master craftsman plus“, long profession experiences and further education; introductory study period)	Fourth cycle VET area
5	Bachelor (academic bachelor's degree)	First cycle academic area
6	Master (academic master's degree)	Second cycle academic area
7	PhD (Graduate profession and PhD)	Third cycle academic area

* Framework for Qualification of the European Higher Education Area

** Vocational Education and Training